FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASKS FOR DISARMAMENT SUPPORT

PY230208 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 86 p 15

[Text] Brasilia -- Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Chernyshev yesterday addressed the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee and asked for Brazilian support for the Soviet nuclear disarmament proposal, which has been rejected by the U.S. Government. Brazil's support was sought because it "enjoys a recognized international prestige." In search of this support for the Soviet disarmament proposals, which were approved during the 27th CPSU Congress in January [as published], Ambassador Chernyshev has met with President Jose Sarney, and the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, Ulysses Guimaraes and Jose Fragelli, respectively. During yesterday's speech the Soviet ambassador criticized the "reactionary forces of the imperialist world" which are stimulating war and the arms race to preserve their power and impose their will on people.

COOPERATION COMMISSION FORMED WITH URUGUAY

PY220022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia 21 Mar (EFE) -- It was officially reported today that the Brazilian and Uruguayan Governments today initiated a new phase in their relations that will broaden their economic cooperation and coordination. Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre and his Uruguayan counterpart Enrique Iglesias, together with their respective entourages, today established in Brasilia a general coordination commission that was created 11 years ago but which never worked for lack of political will. Minister Iglesias arrived in Brasilia yesterday for a 24-hour meeting, his third in a year. His entourage includes Uruguayan Minister of the Interior Carlos Rios, Industry and Commerce Minister Carlos Piran, Agriculture and Fishery Minister Roberto Vazquez Platero, and acting Economy Minister Luis Mosca.

Sodre and Iglesias pointed out the importance of bilateral cooperation within a democratic framework and the contribution of this effort in favor of social integration. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today reported on the establishment of the commission and said that the relations between the two democratic governments are "at their best."

The Uruguayan group's visit will expedite the plans for exportations of rice and beef, which are products that are on the list of Brazilian priorities to guarantee domestic supply after the drastic economic measures put in force nearly a month ago. Brazil is committed to buying up to 20,000 tons of beef. The Uruguayan delegation will be received in a special audience today by President Jose Sarney.

HAITI REQUESTS EXTRADITION OF EX-POLICE CHIEF

PY241811 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 86 p 14

[By Jose Arbex, special envoy to Port-au-Prince]

[Excerpt] Haiti has formally asked Brazil to extradite Colonel Alberto Pierre, the [former] chief of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's secret police, who has been exiled to Fernando Noronha Island since 25 February. The extradition request was announced on Friday by Haitian Justice Minister Jacques Francois during his first speech as a member of the new government junta set up the day before yesterday and presided over by General Henri Namphy, 53. Brazilian Ambassador to Haiti Paulo Frassinetti, 61, has confirmed that the extradition request has already been lodged and stated that the new Haitian Government has sent Ambassador Yves Massillon to Brasilia to handle the case.

PAPER AGREES WITH REAGAN'S C.A. THESIS

PY212233 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Mar 86 p 3

["Notes and Information" page: "Owed and Necessary Explanation"]

[Text] The international responsibility of President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz lends weight to statements asserting that Nicaragua has become a springboard for the spread of subversion not only to Central America, but to South America as well. An observer of Central American developments has certainly noticed that 1986 has seen a "verbal escalation" on the part of those who are responsible for the U.S. foreign policy -- an escalation that attributes to the Sandinists a widening area of action.

Last November, for instance, the State Department affirmed in an official document the Sandinists' support of insurgent groups -- in the way of "organization, command and control, training, logistic and communications support -- has been the primary factor in determining the duration and the scope of the conflict in Central America, especially in El Salvador. A few months later, on 27 February to be precise, the secretary of state expanded the area of action of the Sandinists, saying that Brazilians may have been among those who had received military training from the Nicaraguan Government. The prompt reaction of the Brazilian Government, which was interested in knowing up to what point Shultz's statement could be true, elicited an answer that did not offer much explanation: The State Department said it was sorry that the secretary had unduly made use of information regarding Brazil, but did not say whether the information was true. Now it is Reagan who makes a similar charge in the context of his battle to obtain congressional authorization for his plan to grant financial assistance to the contras.

According to the U.S. President, "The Nicaraguan communists have given support in the form of military training, shelter, communications, false documents, safe-conduct, and, sometimes, weapons to radicals in the following countries:....Brazil..." This statement offers many options, from weapons to false documents. Since everyone knows that Sandinist officials have been seeking coffee pickers in Brazil and that youngsters volunteered for a job they detest in Brazil, we can suspect that they have gone to Nicaragua seeking something else, not the heavy work of picking coffee. All this, however, was done in broad daylight, with the prospective guerrillas being photographed for the newspapers. As it was said of the SNI [National Intelligence Service] during the times of General Golbery, at least newspapers are read by the Brazilian intelligence services.

It would be only normal that the publicized shipment of that bunch of brave volunteers, who went to prop up the cause of the Nicaraguan economy against the U.S. monster, be registered by the Brazilian police, and even by the CIA if it is true what is said about it, that it has at least one agent in each country. If the shipment of volunteers was registered, and it should have been, it should not be strange that President Reagan should say that Nicaragua has supplied those Brazilians with military training, or false documents, or arms, or a combination thereof.

The inconveniences to the U.S. charge d'affaires, who is forced to leave the embassy and report to Itamaraty to hear requests for explanation or clarification, are ultimately caused by the question that prompts President Reagan to say over a television network that Nicaragua is threatening the stability of the countries mentioned. Cuba, which has become a well-behaved agent of Moscow in Africa, is no longer the question. Now it is Nicaragua that poses the greatest danger for Central and South America.

Statements such as those we referred to before must not give rise to doubts nor can their explanation be kept within the walls of the foreign services. It is important to know if in fact, Nicaragua is training Brazilian guerrillas or if it is serving as a meeting place for radicals who are given military training and false documents in preparation for any eventuality. This question cannot be of interest for Itamaraty and the State Department alone. If the statements by Reagan and Shultz reflect a misinterpretation of received information, they should be frowned upon because of the unjustified concern they have created -- and because they might be seen as a White House attempt to use the name of Brazil to obtain funds from the U.S. Congress: if those statements reflect the truth, they are of interest to the entire Brazilian society. Therefore, those statements must be duly clarified by Washington and its clarification transmitted to the Brazilian people by Itamaraty.

ENGESA CHIEF DISCUSSES ARMS SALES ETHICS

PY242136 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Mar 86

[By Dalton Moreira]

[Excerpt] Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] President Jose Luis Whitaker Ribeiro believes that Brazil is the only country that maintains ethical standards on the international arms market, despite the fact that according to the United Nations, Brazil is the world's fifth largest arms supplier. Engesa is Brazil's largest arms manufacturer.

In an exclusive interview granted to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, Whitaker said that other suppliers, like the United States, do not follow the same line of conduct because they provide arms to both sides in a conflict, as in the case of Iran and Iraq. Brazil is selling arms only to Iraq, and has no commercial ties with Iran. At Engesa's administrative headquarters in Barueri (a district in greater Sao Paulo), Whitaker said that on the world market arms sales amount to $800 billion annually, of which Third World suppliers account for only $15 billion with the rest shared by the United States and the USSR. He said he expects Engesa's sales to reach $600 million this year.

Whitaker defended the autonomy of the Brazilian arms manufacturers and criticized the United States, where lobbies [preceding word in English] exert strong pressure against new suppliers. As an example, he mentioned the economic boycott that the United States recently tried to impose on Libya despite the fact that U.S. arms suppliers are doing business with that country. President Reagan had charged that Libya is involved in terrorist actions. "They can sell, but we cannot. This is absurd. They have no authority over us," he stressed.

The Engesa president tried to rebut the criticism of the Brazilian military industry by stating that arms produce dollars for the country. He also said that Engesa has helped open new markets for other products. He explained that it is the arms purchasers and not the Brazilian Government which demand that contracts be kept secret. However, he admitted that arms exports must be subject to bureaucratic procedures to safeguard the interests of Brazil.

BRIEFS

VENEZUELA DRUGS MEETING -- (Tercio Lins da Silva), president of the Federal Narcotics Council, is taking part in a meeting in Venezuela to discuss measures to prevent drug trafficking on the Brazilian-Venezuelan border. The purpose of the meeting is to renew the agreement signed in 1977 aimed at controlling drug trafficking through Amazonas and Amapa. [Summary] [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Mar 86 PY]

BOLIVIA'S PAZ HAS 'PRAGMATIC' VIEW ON SEA OUTLET

PY241515 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has conveyed a message of peace and understanding to Chile, giving a pragmatic turn to the Bolivian policy of achieving the aspiration of overcoming Bolivia's land-locked situation. Reports datelined La Paz state that the head of state explained the new Bolivian position during the celebrations held to mark Ocean Day, in memory of Bolivian hero Eduardo Abarca.

Paz Estenssoro said that the unforfeitable Bolivian right of having an outlet to the sea must take a new course because, in his opinion, [word indistinct] no way conducive to the pragmatic imperative of overcoming Bolivia's geographic isolation. He added that pragmatism does not involve straightforwardly accepting any type of solution, feeling that on the threshold of the 21st century, dogmatism and the pride of the victor and the conquered have lost meaning. The Bolivian president stated: Let us use wisdom and creativity to find mutually advantageous arrangements to this century-old problem, and let us search for policies to strengthen our common struggle against imperialism, thus ensuring a search for an honorable solution.

Del Valle Responds

PY242129 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has labeled the Bolivian president's statement about resuming diplomatic relations with Chile as interesting. Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro has reiterated his proposal to search for a new direction in the Bolivian diplomatic relations with Chile. Minister del Valle labeled Paz' statement interesting and said that it confirms previous statements made by the Bolivian president.

[Begin Del Valle recording] It seems like a confirmation of what was being said by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry and on this occasion it comes from the president. This is very important because it confirms a policy that we saw coming. It also confirms the arrival of the Bolivian consul general to Santiago and I believe this is a good sign. We continue to wait with the same attitude [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Minister del Valle indicated that for the time being he is not going to make any further statements on this issue. He said that this issue will be discussed when the new consul general, Jorge Siles Salinas, arrives.

ZUCCOLILLO PREDICTS STROESSNER TO BACK 'PUPPET'

PY241516 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Aldo Zuccolillo, the owner of the closed newspaper ABC COLOR, today stated that President Alfredo Stroessner will give up his post to a civilian puppet in 1988 but that he will retain power through the powers granted him in a special Armed Forces law. The Military Personnel Statute was approved very rapidly by Congress in December 1980, 1 day before the end of that year's sessions. This was explained to the correspondents of foreign news agencies and some local reporters by the businessman-journalist.

Zuccolillo said that this document allows commanders and officers to administrate their assets and to carry out technical and professional activities in the civilian sector, meaning that they can be businessmen, cattlemen, industrialists, professionals, bankers, money changes, and insurance company owners. But Zuccolillo stressed that the military officers need one prerequisite to carry out these activities: The prior authorization of the commander in chief. The commander in chief can also demand a report on the nature of their assets, request or stop their promotions, and order their firing, he added.

Zuccolillo stated that the commander in chief can retain a military officer in service even if he has reached the legal retirement age. He explained that the limit for active service is 35 years for all officers, with one exception: that of the commander in chief himself, for whom there is no time or age limit.

Continuing his explanation of Stroessner's change of strategy to keep the strings of power in his hands after the 1988 presidential elections, the ABC COLOR owner made it clear that the Military Personnel Statute allows people in uniform to carry out political activities. Previous laws were different, but now they can carry out that type of activity, and it is evident that the law was drafted exclusively for the commander in chief so that he can decide the future and careers of the officers, Zuccolillo added. He also stressed that Stroessner will not accept the presidential candidacy in 1988 because he will not be able to bear the internal and external pressures, but he will surprise international public opinion by supporting the candidacy of a civilian puppet.

SALDIVAR DEPARTS FOR TALKS IN BRASILIA

PY241224 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 9

[Excerpts] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Carlos A. Saldivar traveled to Brasilia on 23 March to discuss "bilateral matters" with his Brazilian colleague, Abreu Sodre. Itaipu and the soybean railway are two of the topics that will be discussed during the meeting, with the purpose of trying to push them forward. "The meeting will have an open agenda so that matters that interest the governments and peoples of our countries" can be discussed, the minister stated, admitting that no topics have been set for the meeting. But it can safely be said that Itaipu, the soybean railway, and regional matters will be discussed.

SOVIET ENVOY ON NEGATIVE CONTRA AID VOTE

FL220044 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Ronald Reagan's failure to get the U.S. Congress to provide financial support for the Nicaraguan contras represents the discord that exists between the people and Government of the United States.

In stating the preceding, Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev said the negative vote of the U.S. Congress is an internal political matter of that nation; he said it exemplifies the differences that exist between the aggressiveness of the U.S. Government toward Central America and what the people want.

The diplomat said that Reagan is continuing his interventionist, oppressive policy toward Nicaragua. He said his country will follow the development of events around the U.S. President's request for $100 million because the Senate still has to vote on the question.

He reiterated his government's support of the Contadora Group because it is believed that the Central American states can resolve their conflicts only through peaceful means. He added that the root of the problem in the region is the deep economic and social backwardness that exists for which reason these countries should receive aid.

SILVA HERZOG DEPARTS FOR MEETING IN COSTA RICA

FL221900 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1840 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog left today for San Jose, Costa Rica, where he will participate in the 27th annual meeting of the Assembly of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The meeting will analyze the IDB's loan policy in relation to the strategies proposed in the Baker Plan.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from 47 countries from Europe, the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez will officially open the meeting on Monday.

Silva Herzog is accompanied by Bank of Mexico Director Miguel Mancera Aguayo.

PEMEX DIRECTOR OUTLINES CURRENT OIL POLICY

PA241559 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 7

[By Jeanette Becerra Acosta]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the expropriation of petroleum, the director general of Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), Mario Ramon Beteta, stated that Mexico is the sole owner of its domestic and foreign energy sources. He also announced budget cuts and said that neither petrochemical refining nor concessions of hydrocarbon exploitation would ever be turned over to foreign hands. "Petroleum belongs to Mexico forever and to no one else," he said.

Beteta admitted that the country is experiencing a difficult situation in view of the decrease in petroleum prices, and therefore the industrial sector, which represents half of Mexico's tax income, is also experiencing a crisis. However, he forecast that we will surpass this crisis "as we did 48 years ago."

The official said that Pemex drills approximately 2.7 million barrels of crude oil and 3.6 billion cubic feet of gas daily, in addition to having a capacity to refine 1.2 million barrels per day. "Among all the industrial enterprises in the world," he added, "Pemex ranks among those at the top in profits and sales; and among the petroleum enterprises, it ranks fourth in production of hydrocarbons, fifth in volume of reserves, and fifth in exports."

Beteta reaffirmed that in spite of the uncertainty prevailing on the international hydrocarbon market, the institution's industrial potential remains unchanged inasmuch as it gains foreign currency, strengthens public credit, strengthens the country's international reputation, opens new employment possibilities for thousands of Mexicans and, above all, provides Mexicans with over 90 percent of the basic energy they require.

Beteta then referred to a topic that concerns many people: the cost of procuction vis-a-vis the decrease in petroleum prices. In this regard, the Pemex director strongly confirmed that the cost for that activity is advantageous, inasmuch as Mexican oil desposits -- particularly those in the area of Chiapas-Tabasco and the marine deposits in Campeche -- " are among the best in the world."

"Our participation in the export markets will not only depend on the cost per barrel and its relation to prevailing prices, but also on more profound reasons, such as safeguarding our national interests. Mexico will not squander its petroleum," he emphasized.

Beteta also announced that Pemex will reduce its expenses and will make severe adjustments, as far as investments are concerned and in areas related to the exploration and exploitation of the most promising regions and oil deposits in order to obtain the greatest yield with the least resources.

He also said that Pemex will continue its policy of substituting imports, its ecological programs in order to improve the environment, and will guide its production of basic petrochemicals towards those that -- through the secondary petrochemical industry and the manufacturing industry -- produce the greatest added value within the country.

CONEP COMMUNIQUE ON RECENT INCIDENTS, LAWS

PA241859 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 12 B

[Communique issued by the National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP, in Panama City on 19 March]

[Text] In view of the grave incidents being experienced by the Panamanian nation and in view of our unavoidable duty to defend the democratic and free enterprise systems, CONEP feels the need to explain to the country, the citizens in general, the productive sectors, and all the political, social, and economic sectors, especially those who are responsible for leading the country, its position in the face of the incidents that are hurting the country's economy and the best national interests:

1. The executive branch's presentation of the labor, industrial, and agricultural bills to the Legislative Assembly forced CONEP to reject them publicly because they are not in line with the country's situation, do not produce an effective economic reactivation, and do not solve the serious unemployment problem.

2. We reject the way in which these bills were discussed and approved at the Legislative Assembly, which undoubtedly resulted in the violent acts in the country.

3. We reaffirm our unrestricted support for the private sectors now affected by the measures imposed by the national government.

4. We once again reiterate that isolated laws will not resolve the country's problem. This can be done by eradicating corruption, which is the basic cause for the national crisis that resulted in a total loss of values, a lack of leadership, a lack of credibility in officials and government institutions, a reduction in the quality and efficiency of public services, and the stagnation of the economy.

5. We issue a call for a halt to destabilizing actions, strikes, marches, stoppages, and protests. These are actions that hurt the workers and the country as a whole. In addition, they cause an intensification of the recession which affects every citizen of our fatherland.

We issue a call so that, within a framework of understanding and respect, the leaders and the people provide what the country needs to achieve the true peace, progress, and transquility that is urgently needed.

Issued in Panama City on 19 March 1986.

CONATO LEAVES UNADE PARTIES, JOINS OPPOSITION

PA241700 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 7

[Text] The leaders of the National Council of Organized Workers [Conato] have asked the 150,000 workers affiliated with that labor coalition to resign from the parties that make up the UNADE (National Democratic Union): PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], PALA [Labor Party], Liberal Party, and Republican Party, whose legislators are held responsible for the reforms of the Labor Code.

Eduardo Rios of the Suntrass [Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers] said that from now on, the labor movement will be in the opposition, because "not a single worker in the country can be considered a member of the ruling parties."

In the same manner, Rios called for civil disobedience, stating that "we cannot pay taxes to the traitors, we cannot pay social security to the traitors; we must defeat those traitors and we must update our struggling methods."

For his part, Ricardo Monterrey, secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, said that "in the future, we will let no one deceive us with false Torrijist proclamations or pompous references to a social peace that no longer exists."

With Monterrey's statement, Conato rejected the much-publicized peace campaigns conducted by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander-in-chief of the National Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama.

BANANA WORKERS STRIKE CAUSES $40 MILLION IN LOSSES

PA241658 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] The Chiriqui Land Company has sustained losses that total approximately $40 million as a result of the strike that the workers of the Puerto Armuelles sector have been staging for the past 22 days to demand wage increases. The national treasury has lost almost $1 million.

Negotiations being held in David, Chiriqui, have come to a standstill because of the positions taken by the workers and the company regarding the salary proposal. The workers demand a fixed 9 percent increase in their salaries, while the company has proposed a general increase of $20,000 beginning in the 3d year. [sentence as published]

Executives of the fruit company have stated that any plantation lost as a consequence of this strike will not be rehabilitated, which will cause the suspension of operations in the Pacific sector.

Sources from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare have given assurances that they are talking with the parties in conflict in order to reach an agreement that benefits the 6,500 strikers and the fruit company.

At this time, the draft collective bargaining contract between the company and the workers has 458 clauses. The parties have reached agreement on matters related to fringe benefits and working conditions; however, no agreement has been reached on the wage increase.

PRESIDENT SIGNS INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL LAWS

PA211727 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] A few minutes ago in this capital, President Eric Arturo Delvalle signed the industrial and agricultural laws approved by the Legislative Assembly. The two laws are being sent tonight for publication tomorrow in the Official Gazette.

EL SALVADOR

BORDER ISSUE WITH HONDURAS TO GO TO THE HAGUE

PA240350 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta and Honduran Deputy Foreign Secretary Mario Carias Zapata signed an agreement today on border matters that they will present before the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 10 June. Ricardo Acevedo Peralta told the media:

[Begin recording] [Acevedo] We are pleased. We have made progress in drafting this agreement on procedures that clearly establish the rules for the presentation of the differences before the court in The Hague. We are very pleased with the advances we have achieved after 2 days of intense negotiations. My colleague and dear friend, Mario Carias Zapata, will explain the agreement to you.

[Carias] This is the third meeting that Salvadoran and Honduran delegations have held to draft an agreement that will allow us to present the land, island, and maritime differences of the two republics before the court in The Hague. Yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon, and this morning we held very good meetings. We are drafting the various articles. The agreement on commitments is not very long, but it does call for careful drafting. We must abide by the rules and statutes of the court. As Deputy Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta said, we plan to make a joint presentation, and perhaps by late this year we will have the early reports from each of the parties involved. According to the General Peace Treaty, the deadline for the negotiations on the commitments is 10 June, and we feel that before that date we will have a document to submit for the approval of the two countries. [end recording]

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS DECISION

PA211848 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez stated today that the UN Human Rights Commission "will continue to observe the human rights situation in Guatemala." Reporting on his speech at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva on 3 March, Quinonez said that he received "support and help for the efforts to improve the country's status as a pluralist democracy."

However, the organization will continue to observe the human rights situation there to ensure that the government of President Vinicio Cerezo "fulfills its commitment to human rights in Guatemala." Quinonez Amezquita stated: "For the first time, after being condemned for human rights violations for 8 consecutive years, Guatemala was not condemned this year."

The UN Human Rights Commission met in Geneva, Switzerland, from mid-February to 15 March to discuss human rights in Guatemala and the information report by special reporter Viscount Colville de Culross. Without going into details, the foreign minister said "the Latin American countries on the commission have closed the books on Guatemala and have ended Culross' mandate." Quinonez Amezquita also explained that during the 42d assembly of the Human Rights Commission "the Guatemalan Government was encouraged to continue taking steps to enhance and protect human rights."

He added that some countries -- among them Austria, Canada, Spain, France, Ireland, and Norway -- presented a number of amendments to the draft resolution. The foreign minister added that despite this, at the close of the 13 March assembly a consensus was reached to "end the study of human rights in Guatemala without issuing a condemnation."

Quinonez Amezquita stated that the Cerezo government "has taken measures to protect human rights in line with the principles of international law, which form the basis of the country's policy and it has pledged to steer the country toward becoming a pluralist democracy. During his speech at the assembly, the foreign minister said he promised that the Christian Democratic government "will totally support human rights because for the people to have life they need freedom."

LOBOS APPOINTED NEW AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA

PA210325 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Former Deputy Head of State General Rodolfo Lobos Zamora was finally appointed Guatemalan ambassador to Panama. Diverse sectors have interpreted Lobos Zamora's appointment as proof of the good understanding between the previous military government and the current civilian government despite the insistent affirmations by Christian Democratic officials to the effect that a transition from one government to the other involves an overhaul that includes figures representing the state. One of the sectors opposing Lobos Zamora's appointment as Guatemalan ambassador to Panama is the Mutual Support Group. That group is striving to know the whereabouts of persons missing or kidnapped in the country over the past few years.

Lobos Zamora will replace reporter Raul Gonzalez Garza-Rivas as Guatemala's ambassador to Panama.

FORMER DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER VICTIM OF ATTACK

PA242307 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Colonel Raul Aburez, who was deputy defense minister in Oscar Mejia Victores' military government, and his wife were shot today.

The victims were taken to the military hospital, where ACAN-EFE was told that their condition "is delicate" due to bullet wounds. According to initial reports, the couple was driving to visit some relatives when they were suddenly attacked from another vehicle, whose occupants opened fire.

This incident comes in the wake of an ambush in which Rodrigo Rodriguez, vice president of the National Coffee Growers Association, was wounded today at the 200 km marker on the Pacific Highway. Rodriguez was on his way to one of his farms on the southern coast when he was intercepted by men driving a farm vehicle, who shot him in the head. Rodriguez was driving with his wife and four children. However, he was the only one wounded, although the attackers managed to overturn his car.

Defense Minister Jaime Hernandez said again today that "the wave of violence seeks to destabilize the government, because the subversives are desperate because this government has eliminated their banners to rally around."

He said, "For the guerrillas, it is not the same to act against military governments like those of Mejia Victores or Rios Montt, as against a government democratically elected by a substantial majority."

He also said that is why he does not believe that the former members of the police investigations department, disbanded by presidential order, "are now engaged in robbery, attacks, and murders as is popularly claimed."

HONDURAS

BORDER AREA 'TENSE'; NO STATE OF ALERT EXISTS

PA232345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2306 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Mar (AFP) -- A tense situation prevails in the communities of the eastern Department of El Paraiso on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border due to an increased presence of anti-Sandinist rebels, according to accounts of inhabitants of that region. However, Major Jorge Arguello, director of Public Relations of the Armed Forces, told AFP that "there is no state of alert" and refuted reports to that effect.

"The situation within the Armed Forces is normal, and this is the climate that exists in all its units," the spokesman added.

Honduran President Jose Azcona confirmed that last Wednesday troops were dispatched to the Nicaraguan border, but with the purpose of restoring calm among the inhabitants of El Paraiso. The president stated that the number of troops dispatched was far less than 5,000, which was the figure supplied by news reports.

The inhabitants of the sector of Arenales, El Paraiso -- 240 km east of this capital -- have made repeated calls to the Armed Forces to increase their presence in the region to guarantee their security. The farmers in Arenales have lost their crops several times, according to them, because of the presence of "contras" and incursions by the Sandinist Army, which has caused a climate of permanent tension in the region.

After Nicaragua sent armored vehicles and troops to its border with Honduras, the presence of "contras" has increased in the past few days in the sector of Arenales, according to inhabitants who have fled to more secure regions.

Inhabitants of El Porvenir village in the sector of Arenales said that 15 days ago anti-Sandinist rebels began to cross the border into Honduras and established three bases close to the border with Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams made a secret visit to Honduras on Friday that was not revealed until today, a diplomatic source confirmed to AFP. The source indicated that Abrams "met here with ranking officers of the Armed Forces." A military spokesman was asked about the visit and claimed not to have any knowledge of it, while the government house has not reported it, either.

Abrams visited Honduras 1 day after the U.S. Congress rejected the request for $100 million made by President Ronald Reagan for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

U.S. SOURCES REPORT ALLEGED SANDINIST 'RAID'

PA242121 Paris AFP in Spanish 2008 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (AFP) -- As of this afternoon, there had been no official reaction or confirmation about an alleged Sandinist raid into southern Honduras. U.S. State Department spokesmen in Washington had reported the alleged raid.

As of noon today, official sources in Tegucigalpa had not made any statements regarding the raid. Army public relations sources consulted this afternoon refused to comment on the matter, claiming that the military personnel responsible for this type of information were busy at "meetings."

In Nicaragua, the government radio station labeled the Washington report as a "maneuver" by the Reagan administration to obtain approval of the $100 million aid to the contras. Meanwhile, according to reports by the townspeople, there is a tense situation in communities in the eastern Department of El Paraiso on the Nicaraguan border because of the presence of anti-Sandinist guerrillas.

Major Jorge Aurguello, director of the Army's Public Relations office, told AFP yesterday that "there is no state of alert," denying reports to that effect.

Government Views U.S. Charge

PA242209 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Honduran Government expressed the opinion today that the charge by the Reagan administration about an incursion by 1,000 Sandinist troops in Honduras "is part of the campaign to secure approval of aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries." Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the government house, when consulted by AFP, said that "we have no knowledge of this [incursion] and had it been known the Foreign Secretariat would have already protested."

The charge of the alleged incursion by the Sandinist Army was made by the White House after the lightning visit by Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador, which went unnoticed in this capital. Quezada said that "if there had been such an incursion it would have been repelled by the Armed Forces, as guarantors of our sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"Honduras cannot permit such an action without receiving an adequate response," the press secretary noted. The official said that Washington's charge "is part of the publicity campaign by the Reagan administration to secure approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolution." However, he recognized that this matter "involves us and forcibly it has to be so."

Meanwhile, newspaper sources conformed that approximately 4,000 anti-Sandinist insurgents established camps in the past few days in the sector of Capire in the eastern Department of El Paraiso, 15 km from the border with Nicaragua. A camp commander identified as "Johnnie," said that "we have retreated for lack of food, but we have never lacked rifles, ammunition, clothes, or uniforms."

He said that despite the rejection of the supply of aid by the U.S. Congress, "we have enough moral capacity to continue our liberation struggle."

"We must consider that we not only have the aid of the U.S. Government, but we also have the support of the right-wing [de derecho] countries and all the democratic countries are giving us the necessary aid to continue our struggle," he stated.

Nicaraguan Minister on Charge

PA250356 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0115 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Telephone interview with Manuel Espinoza Henrique, Nicaraguan information and press director of the Presidency, with several Honduran reporters and moderator Marco Antonio Mejia -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Espinoza] ...that the charge is being made by the White House. This clearly proves the intentions behind the charge; the intention being to create problems between Honduras and Nicaragua, between the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua, between the peoples of Honduras and Nicaragua, and to campaign in favor of President Reagan's incredible attitude.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, we have just begun a live transmission of your statements. I would like you to repeat the answer to my previous question regarding the fact that the EPS is carrying out a counterinsurgency operation and whether, by mistake, the EPS soldiers could have crossed into our territory.

[Espinoza] I was telling you that in the past few days EPS has been carrying out an offensive that has already resulted in more than 100 casualties for the mercenary forces of the counterrevolution in the northern areas of Nicaragua, in the Departments of Madriz, Nueva Segovia, and Esteli. Regarding the possibility that EPS soldiers have crossed into Honduran territory, well I do not see this as being possible because the places where these clashes have taken place are not on the border itself. As I also said earlier, we can strongly deny that EPS soldiers have crossed into Honduran territory. This is nothing more than part of the propaganda campaign unleashed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration to get the U.S. Congress to approve the $100 million to finance death, destruction, and terrorism in Nicaragua.

I would also like to tell you that it seems incredible, and this proves that what we are saying is true, that the charge regarding the alleged crossing of EPS soldiers into Honduras is being made by the White House and denied by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat and Honduran Armed Forces' spokesmen. This only proves the intentions behind this charge. The intentions behind this charge are to cause a rift, cause incidents between our peoples and governments, and campaign for the President's position to finance the counterrevolution, to finance death and destruction in our country.

However, all this that has been built on lies is beginning to crumble. You know very well that only a few days ago President Reagan said that Argentine, Brazilian, and Uruguayan guerrillas were training in Nicaragua. The governments of those countries have denied these lies and have even asked President Reagan and the U.S. Government to correct those lies. The same thing is going to happen in this case. Your own Foreign Secretariat and Armed Forces have denied what the White House said this morning.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, reporter Jose Emilio Soriano wishes to ask you a question.

At this moment he is at the Presidential Palace. Come in, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thank you, Marco Antonio. Good evening, Minister Espinoza; I am responsible for covering the news at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa. Before I ask my question, I wish to tell you that Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo has said that this new government, which has just taken over beneath a glimmer of a great democracy that is being strengthened in this country, will not lend itself to any kind of abuse against the free determination of the peoples. The president of the Republic has used special phrases to state that: Because of this respect for the free determination of the peoples, the people and Government of Honduras will only be ready to defend their sovereignty, and we do not think you will harm it. What are your views regarding the pacifist position of a young government in Honduras that is trying to maintain peace through dialogue and not by practicing an arms race? I would appreciate your answer. Thank you.

[Espinoza] In practice, the Nicaraguan Government has shown that it is a believer and firm defendor of a position of peace and is willing to search for this peace, that it wants normal relations among governments and peoples, and that this should be done through dialogue, through talks and political solutions. We are very pleased and very happy to see that this is a feeling that is being strengthened in Latin America, and especially in Central America, against those who are trying to resolve the problems by means of pressure, force, and war.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, another of our reporters who is at the Presidential Palace at this moment would like to ask you a question. Please ask your question, Julio Armando Valdez.

[Valdez] Mr Minister, if the Honduran Government maintains its position of nonintervention and self-determination of the people, will your government accept the recommendations made by the four governments of the Central American region and accept the initiative presented by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte in an effort to maintain peace and tranquillity in the area? Would you be willing to negotiate and hold a dialogue with the anti-Sandinists in Nicaragua?

[Espinoza] Yes, our president, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, has said that he is willing to negotiate with the leader of the counterrevolution, the leader being U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, I told you a few minutes ago that the alleged raids by the EPS in Honduran territory have even been reported by people coming from Las Trojes in the country's eastern area. It has also been reported that the EPS has built a landing strip. What can you tell us about this?

[Espinoza] A few months ago, I talked to the friendly HRN [call letters for Voz de Honduras radio] reporters and said that many times the people hear campaigning sectors speak about this. As a result, the people relate any event to what they have been told will happen. As you know, this is the area where the counterrevolutionaries' mercenary forces regroup and hide after they are hit by our Armed Forces, combatants, and peasants' militias. At such times, they regroup and try to flee the EPS offensive. This is where these forces cause problems. The Honduran press, radio, and television have reported these forces' outrages against the region's peaceful and honest Honduran citizens. We believe that it is the counterrevolutionary forces that cause problems in the region.

[Mejia] Comrade Jose Emilio Soriano will now ask a question from the Presidential Palace. Come in, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thanks, Marco Antonio.

Mr Minister, another short question. Would the Nicaraguan president meet with the Honduran president during either the Costa Rican president's inauguration or the great summit meeting of the Central American area? Would your government be willing to hold a dialogue with President Azcona regarding the most important results of the Contadora Group negotiations? The two presidents are in the eye of the hurricane, so to speak. Is there a complete willingness for dialogue? Is it not possible to think, with due respect, that you Nicaraguans have initiated a huge arms race that threatens us in the area?

[Espinoza] This idea of an arms race is part of the propaganda drive against the Nicaraguan Government and the Sandinist revolution. One thing is for certain -- and I am glad that you stress this -- and this is that the Nicaraguan Government has been willing to talk and hold a dialogue to return our relations to normal and develop them. When you mention the Esquipulas meeting, our response is positive. As soon as it is necessary, when President Azcona, the Costa Rican president, or even the Guatemalan President wish, we and our government are willing to get in touch, talk, and hold a dialogue at whatever level it is deemed necessary. This has happened in the past. We have been talking about the border line. In the past we visited Honduran territory and also political and Armed Forces leaders have come to Nicaragua. Why could this not happen now? This is the formula.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, you said a few moments ago that this idea of an arms race is part of the U.S. Government propaganda. Yet, isn't it true that currently Nicaragua has more men under arms than all of the Central American armies put together?

[Espinoza] Yes, but keep in mind that Nicaragua suffers a war of aggression. $100 million in aid has been under discussion in the U.S. Congress for this war against the Nicaraguan people. What the Nicaraguan people have been doing is to defend themselves. Nicaraguans want to work in peace and produce the goods that the people need. War has been imposed on the Nicaraguan people by the U.S. Administration.

[Mejia] Comrade Soriano has another question. Come in, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thanks. Mr Minister, I have another question. I have confirmed that, under the pretext of pursuing counterrevolutionaries, many of your forces have entered Honduran territory, of which I can mention some examples, such as San Marcos de Colon in our country's south and Nicaragua's north, Madriz Department in your country, and Choluteca Department in our country, where Sandinist troops have arrived pursuing some anti-Sandinists who have fled to Honduras. These Nicaraguan troops often outrage the Honduran people. Don't you think this is a flagrant violation of our country's sovereignty, Mr Minister?

[Espinoza] May I tell you this? Some penetration by our forces may have occurred by mistake, as one of the comrades said a few minutes ago. This, however, has not been intentional. We want to live in peace and work. In view of the aggression, we are determined to win and defeat the aggression and put an end to this evil.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, Comrade reporter Jose Rolando Sarmiento wants to ask a question. You are on, Sarmiento.

[Sarmiento] Mr Minister, today and in the past we have heard your statements from Nicaragua whenever this station has called. These calls were made when matters that affected our national security and territorial integrity occurred, such as attacks from Nicaragua against Honduran sovereign territory. Mr Minister, what can you tell us about mines being placed in Honduran territory by EPS soldiers? These mines have already caused the death of several Honduran citizens. What can you tell us of the shellings with the Soviet-made Katyusha multiple rockets, the BM-21 125-mm rockets, against Honduran territory? Some of these rockets have landed 12 and 15 km inside Honduran territory. What can you say about these attacks against Honduras from Nicaragua, attacks that kill and harm Honduran citizens?

[Espinoza] Who can prove that those mines were planted by EPS soldiers? Who can say that those mines were not planted by the mercenaries of the counterrevolution? Also, I wish to tell you that what you are stating has not been denounced by the Honduran authorities. It has not been denounced by the Honduran Armed Forces or the Honduran Foreign Secretariat. These are only rumors. I do not mean to say that the rockets did not land there, but, can you prove that those rockets were launched by the EPS? Can you prove that it was an aggressive action on the part of the EPS? I can assure you that it is not so.

[Mejia] Minister Espinoza, Comrade Julio Armando Valdez from the Presidential Palace has another question for you.

[Valdez] Thank you. Mr Minister, you said that if you were to negotiate it would have to be with President Reagan. Don't you think that the anti-Sandinist front formed by Nicaraguan Opposition Unity [UNO], ARDE, and the FDN are also important? Does this mean that the Nicaraguan Government is not interested in negotiating with the guerrillas within Nicaragua and that it will not accept the initiative presented by the the four presidents of the Central American area?

[Espinoza] There is no guerrilla warfare with Nicaragua. We have said that the Nicaraguan Government, the Nicarguan president, is willing to sit down and talk, negotiate, with the leader of the counterrevolution, because the leader of the counterrevolution is the President of the United States. All you have to do is look around and see the huge campaign that the U.S. President has unleashed to get the aid for the counterrevolutionary forces. The man that gives the money, issues the orders, directs, finances, and who is speaking about sending military advisers to Honduras to train the counterrevolutionaries is none other than the President of the United States, the leader of the counterrevolution. Then why should we talk with other people? We must talk to the leader and resolve this situation.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, we are abusing a bit of your time; however, the truth is that we wish to decrease the tensions apparently being experienced by these two brother countries that have an identical ideology, idiosyncracies, and probably the same future. A few moments ago you said there are no guerrillas in Nicaragua, but later you said that approximately 100 Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries had been killed.

[Espinoza] Corect. That is so. However, these forces come from Honduran territory and enter Nicaragua, to then return to create the problems we have been talking about. These are not forces that remain in Nicaragua, they are forces that clash with the EPS and the popular fighters and then withdraw to cause the problems we have been talking about. When Sandinist troops are mentioned, they are really referring to counterrevolutionary forces that flee and enter Honduras to create problems.

[Mejia] Then in your opinion, at this time there are no guerrillas in Nicaraguan territory, but what, then, happens to the ARDE forces who are allegedly in the southern part of Nicaragua?

[Espinoza] There is none of them there.

[Nejia] Then like the FDN they enter from Honduras, just as the ARDE forces enter from Costa Rica?

[Espinoza] You know very well that this is what has been happening. You know very well what they have. The Honduran media have reported the existence of the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory, against the Honduran people's will, against the will of the government, the Armed Forces, and the Honduran people. However, there they are or were.

[Mejia] Comrade Jose Emilio Soriano with another question, Mr Minister.

[Soriano] In response to my previous question, Mr Minister, you said that it had definitely been accepted that the Sandinist troops enter Honduran territory, but that these are mistakes. Do you not believe that it is these colossal mistakes that are creating the conflicts that neither your government nor the Honduran Government need? Do you not believe that it is adventurous for your Army to enter a neighboring country and violate and massacre our people, who have nothing to do with your internal problem with the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries?

[Espinoza] What I believe is that it is truly painful to see so many people dying in Nicaragua and in the zones near the border with Honduras. It is painful to see that in some cases Hondurans suffer the consequences of this when they should not have to. However, what is true, what is an undeniable truth, is that it is incredible that those camps are causing problems. They are in Honduran territory, as I said, against everyone's will, against your will, against the will of your government and Army. This is what is causing the problem, because if the camps did not exist there would be no problem. If those camps did not exist, if those mercenary forces did not mobilize from those camps to Nicaraguan territory and then flee when they clash with our forces and enter Honduran territory to cause problems, we would not be discussing this now.

[Soriano] Finally Mr Minister, in reality -- and I stress it in this question -- does your government have the political will to solve the Central American crisis? At what levels are you willing to talk to all of the sectors seeking a peaceful solution?

[Espinoza] In the past few months there have been very important events, such as the inauguration of President Cerezo in Guatemala and President Azcona in Honduras; I was there, and we will be present at every opportunity where we can establish communication, talk, make proposals, and create peace proposals along with the other Central American brothers. The very fact that I am calling on you demonstrates our desire to declare our willingness to walk together on the civilized path of dialogue and communication.

[Mejia] [Question indistinct]

[Espinoza] We should not allow ourselves to be caught by provocations. When there is talk of the presence of our forces in Honduran territory, it is an effort to alienate us, to confront us and alienate us, to create problems among us, as a basis for a campaign in favor of the $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries, using us, using the Nicaraguans and Hondurans. We must not fall into this trap. Furthermore, we should remember that if there are problems it is due to the presence of the counterrevolutionary mercenary forces in the region.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, your public appearance on HRN has undoubtedly aroused the interest of our fellow reporters. Reporter Irma Santos has the following question.

[Santos] Mr Minister, when you confirm that there are contras in Honduras, you are attacking us. I want to ask you, upon what basis do you and your government state that there really are contras in Honduran territory? Please answer this.

[Espinoza] I have not said this. The Honduran reporters have said this themselves. It has been said on Honduran television, in Honduran newspapers, and radio stations. I base my comments on this information.

[Mejia] Another question by Comrade Julio Armando Valdez, Mr Minister.

[Valdes] Mr Minister, Nicaragua has been described by international politicians as a platform of victory in the Central American region, as a platform of victory for the Soviet Union and Cuba. It is upon this basis that [Mu'ammar] Al-Qadhdhafi has helped you acquire arms to maintain unrest in the Central American region. This is the criteria of some distinguished politicians of Latin and Central America as well as throughout the world.

[Espinoza] No. This is not said by serious and distinguished politicians. President Reagan said it in his speech, campaigning to attack Nicaragua. However, if you listen to worldwide leaders of established prestige and respect, you will not hear this type of statement. You will hear calls for respect for self-determination, for the right to self-determination, calls to seek a political solution through dialogue and conversation, calls to support the Contadora effort. No, those statements are not made by serious politicians.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, how do you explain that subversives who have entered our country after being captured have said that they were trained in Nicaraguan territory or that through Nicaragua they travelled to Cuba?

[Espinoza] In reality, I have not heard that type of statement. I certainly have not heard them. All I can say is that it is part of the campaign. In Nicaragua there are no training camps that create problems. We respect self-determination. This is why we [word indistinct] the political activities in our neighboring countries. It would not be possible for us to [word indistinct] and at the same time train people who are against our government. That would be absurd.

[Mejia] Comrade Jose Emilio Soriano and Julio Armando Valdes have questions for you. They are at the presidential house. Jose Emilio Soriano; go ahead, Jose Emilio.

[Soriano] Thank you. Mr Minister, again, approximately 2 weeks ago the Honduran Army discovered a large quantity of arms in Intibuca Department on the border with El Salvador. The people transporting these arms said that they were from Nicaragua. How can you explain your flagrant violation of our sovereignty and your use of our territory to transfer arms to El Salvador, to the guerrillas, when there are reports by the Honduran Army -- the professional Army of this country -- that demonstrated this? Today, here in the capital city in a neighborhood called (Las Fosas), a large quantity of arms from Nicaragua was discovered. They were brought here to subvert order in this country and to socially subvert this country. These reports have already been confirmed by our state security forces, reports to the effect that the arms are from Nicaragua and financed by Nicaragua. Do you not believe, Mr Minister, that in your large-scale, warmongering campaign, you are also flagrantly violating our country? Can you answer this when we have proof of it? If you buy Honduran newspapers tomorrow you will see the photographs. Thank you, Mr Minister, for your answer.

[Espinoza] I believe that when I initiated this dialogue with the comrade reporters from HRN it was not my intention or their intention to incite problems, or, as it is popularly said, to add fuel to the fire. I can only say that with all of the control measures in the Fonseca Gulf -- you know that there are U.S. ships and bases there to control what they call the arms traffic for the Salvadoran guerrillas -- and with those measures I do not see how we could do this. We would have to have highly developed skills to do this. I believe that many times we are blamed for things that are really incredible. I believe that if we really want to find a solution to the Central American problems, a solution for our countries' problems, we must seek solutions that will allow us to work, and in order for our people and countries to progress we must believe in one another, in what we say to one another.

We must try to walk on a constructive path. If we continue to add fuel to the fire we will not achieve this.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, logically, we realize that you have been very kind to appear on this broadcast. Our two countries are brotherly countries, and you and I are Central American brothers. We appreciate the fact that you have answered our questions in this constructive dialogue. With due respect, we wish to tell you, Mr Minister, that at no time have we thought of assaulting you verbally in any way. We simply want to obtain some answers from official sources like you.

To conclude, Mr Minister, I want to ask you a question on the side. Mr Minister, I deeply believe in God. I was a seminarian for several years and, since I believe in God, I have been deeply concerned over the persecution of the Catholic Church and the current persecution of Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who has been the subject of harsh accusations. It has even been said that it was because of a Vatican policy that he was turned into a new prince of the Catholic Church. We have learned from statements by Cardinal Obando y Bravo that the church is being persecuted and that even his own telephone calls have been tapped. Since this is unrelated to what we were discussing at first, I would appreciate it if you would also answer my question on the side. Why is the Catholic Church being persecuted, since it sets the moral rules for a people to live in peace?

[Espinoza] Well, as you say, we can say that the vast majority of us Nicaraguans are Catholics or believers. You know very well that what is happening in regard to Cardinal Obando y Bravo is not exactly religious persecution. He has a given political attitude, and he is finding an answer regarding that political attitude. However, it is in view of his political attitude, not in view of his attitude as a Catholic pastor. The majority of the Nicaraguan people are Catholics. There are also important sectors that belong to various Protestant faiths. The majority of the Nicaraguan people profess some belief. Therefore, our government and our revolution would be ill-advised to persecute religion.

What is involved here is a confrontation of a political type. It is between Cardinal Obando y Bravo and some priests against other priests. However, it is absolutely false that there is political [as heard] persecution here.

[Mejia] Thank you, Mr Minister. We continue taking undue advantage of your patience and your public appearance through HRN. Comrade Julio Armando Valdez wants to ask you a question. Go ahead, Julio Armando.

[Valdez] Mr Minister, since you say that the UNO, ARDE, and FDN do not exist, who can be blamed for the large number of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras who are causing it social problems? Would you be in a position to admit this large number of refugees in order for the Honduran Government to send them back to Nicaragua? Is there this social capability there?

[Espinoza] Yes. Our government has urged Nicaraguans to return to their homeland. In fact, the Nicaraguan Government has enacted an amnesty law that covers even the people who have been fighting against the Nicaraguan people. Hundreds of peasants, of Nicaraguans, have taken shelter under that law and are now in Nicaragua quietly working in their communities together with their families. According to our promises, they have not been harassed.

Therefore, if we are doing this with those who have belonged to the counterrevolutionary forces, how could we fail to do this with sectors of the Nicaraguan population which, because of a given circumstance, have fled and have had to take refuge in Honduras? Indeed, our government and our people would welcome these brothers with open arms.

[Mejia] Mr Minister, Comrade Juan Antonio Moncada of our production department will ask the next question. Go ahead.

[Moncada] Thank you very much, Mr Minister. Good evening. We are, or rather I am, very interested in knowing the real policy your country pursues. Some say it is Marxist-Leninist; others say it is Marxist-communist. Mr Minister, what political ideology is your country actually pursuing?

[Mejia] Hello, go ahead. Go ahead, Mr Minister.

[Espinoza] I cannot hear you. I did not hear any of what you said you were going to ask.

[Mejia] Yes. Comrade Juan Antonio Moncada was asking you what the ideology of the Sandinist government is.

[Espinoza] Well, our ideology is based on the Sandinist principles. Our revolution has said this clearly. It seeks self-determination for our country. We have a clear-cut system of political pluralism, mixed economy, and nonalignment. This can help you find a definition of our [word indistinct].

[Moncada] However, at present the Nicaraguan Government would be virtually aligning itself with what is known as Marxism-Leninism, and we are asking this question to comply with the wish of one of our listeners, who called HRN on another telephone. Is this true?

[Espinoza] No. We form part of the Nonaligned Movement, which, as a matter of fact, does not adhere to any given position like the one you are mentioning.

[Mejia] You said a few minutes ago that the Nicaraguan Government would be willing to receive all Nicaraguan refugees on Honduran territory and that it would receive the refugees who have fled to our territory because of a given circumstance. What is that circumstance?

[Espinoza] The circumstance is the war, the war that is being provoked.

[Mejia] Therefore, there is indeed a war in Nicaragua?

[Espinoza] There is an aggression. The U.S. President is at this moment asking for an additional $100 million for the aggression. Don't you think it would be wonderful if this $100 million were given to you to build schools, to purchase fertilizer, or to build roads in Honduras?

[Mejia] But who are fighting -- the Americans or Nicaraguans?

[Espinoza] They are giving that [aid] to mercenary forces made up by former Somozist guards.

[Question] But we understand that some of the top commanders of the FDN are Nicaraguans.

[Espinoza] Most of them are Somozist guards who were defeated by the people's struggle in 1979.

[Mejia] Finally, one last question by Julio Armando Valdez.

[Valdez] Mr Minister, Eden Pastora -- was he a Somozist when he was fighting alongside you? How do you view the attitude assumed by Eden Pastora?

[Espinoza] Well, Eden Pastora is now also linked with President Reagan's request. That is his position.

[Valdez] Do you have anything else to add?

[Espinoza] No. Only to thank you for the opportunity to talk to a group of reporters, and also that the people of Honduras can be aware of what the message of peace and goodwill is from the Nicaraguan Government.

[Mejia] That was Nicaraguan Information Minister Manuel Espinoza Henriquez. Thank you, Mr Minister.

Emergency Security Council Meeting

PA250156 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0153 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council this afternoon to discuss an alleged incursion by over 1,000 Sandinist soldiers into Honduran territory.

Minutes beofre entering the meeting, which is being held at the presidential house, Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras said that the Armed Forces have not reported any attack to him and that, if the charge raised in Washington is true, the government would lodge "a strong protest with the Nicaraguan Government."

Armed Forces Chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez and the commanders of the four Armed Forces branches -- Army, Air Force, Police, and Naval Force -- are also present at the meeting.

The U.S. President was informed today about an alleged "aggression" against Honduras by over 1,000 Nicaraguan soldiers yesterday, Sunday. Today, no military or government source had any knowledge about the alleged attack. All the Honduran authorities know is what was learned today through the reports from Washington.

Lopez Contreras said that the Honduran people must not be alarmed because there is nothing official on the alleged attacks by Nicaragua. The alleged presence of Nicaraguan rebels on Honduran territory has given rise to several clashes at the border between the two countries.

Last week it was learned that Honduras had sent military reinforcements to the border with Nicaragua in view of the announcement of troop deployments in the same area by that neighboring country. The government is expected to release a report on the situation at the border area tonight.

Armed Forces Deny Knowledge

PA250522 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] We have the following news dispatch. Your close attention to the following cabled report from Tegucigalpa. It says:

The Honduran Armed Forces said today that they know nothing about reports of an alleged incursion by Nicaraguan troops into Honduran territory, which was reported in Washington by an official who did not say how he obtained the report. Major Jorge Alberto Arguello, Honduran Armed Forces spokesman, asserted that there is nothing official about an assertion that Sandinist troops crossed the Honduran border. In Managua, the Defense Ministry denied the report, indicating that the Nicaraguan troops are continuing with their operation to pursue the rebels in northern Nicaragua.

Government Denies Incursion

PA250536 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0513 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Government has denied an alleged "aggression" by more than 1,000 Sandinist troops who reportedly entered this territory last Sunday. The Honduran Armed Forces informed President Jose Azcona Hoyo tonight that it had no information from the border with Nicaragua about an alleged aggression, reported in Washington today.

Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Honduran Government, said that there is no official information in that regard and that, consequently, it was "speculation." Had more than 1,000 Nicaraguan troops penetrated Honduran territory, "we would be at war because our Armed Forces are ready to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity," the official added.

In view of reports from Washington today, President Azcona Hoyo convoked the National Security Council to an emergency session. Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras and members of the Armed Forces explained to the president there is no information about the entry of Sandinist troops into Honduran territory. The Honduran Foreign Secretariat will make an announcement tomorrow in that respect, it was reported at the presidential house tonight.

The government press secretary said that it was a strategy by the U.S. Government so that the U.S. people will support the $100 million in aid that President Ronald Reagan requested from the Congress to help the rebels fighting against the government of Nicaragua. Lisandro Quezada added that President Azcona reiterated at the Security Council session that Honduras will never attack any country and that it will always seek peaceful means to resolve any difference. The report that Honduras had been attacked by Nicaragua yesterday fell like a "pail of cold water" on several sectors of this country.

Some believed that fierce fighting was under way in the border zone, but apparently everything has been a false alarm provoked at the White House in Washington. Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, informed President Ronald Reagan about an alleged military aggression by Nicaragua against this country.

Abrams also informed Reagan today about his "mysterious" visit to El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica the past weekend. The U.S. official's visit was not announced by the Honduran Government or by the U.S. Embassy accredited in Tegucigalpa.

According to Abrams' report to Reagan, in El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica there is "concern and a high level of expectation over the rejection by the U.S. Congress of the approval of aid to the anti-Sandinist rebels."

The Honduran Government considers that whether or not the aid to the "contras" is approved is a private matter of the United States. President Azcona Hoyo has also said that Honduras will not lend its territory to attack other nations.

NICARAGUA

U.S.-LIBYAN CLASH IN MEDITERRANEAN REPORTED

PA250203 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] White House spokesman Larry Speakes this afternoon confirmed that U.S. 6th Fleet aircraft attacked Libyan military positions in Sirte. The 6th Fleet has been carrying out military exercises in Libyan territorial waters [words indistinct].

It was reported in London tonight that, according to the Libyan television service, three aircraft from the 6th Fleet carriers in Libyan territorial waters have been shot down. Meanwhile, in Washington, the Pentagon said it had been informed that Libyan defense forces fired an antiaircraft missile against 6th Fleet aircraft that flew over Libyan territorial waters. The Pentagon officials, however, have said they await more information from the 6th Fleet ships participating in military exercises in Libyan territorial waters. U.S. radio and television networks regarded the report of these military actions as very serious and interrupted their regular broadcasts to expand on the reports.

This afternoon the U.S. Government said that it reserves the right to take (actions) against Libya [words indistinct] armed aggression against its territory by 6th Fleet aircraft. Speakes has said that the Reagan government could not describe the current situation as one of war against Libya. He said, however, that any Libyan aircraft approaching U.S. warships would be regarded as an enemy. Using the typical language of imperialists used to trampling over the (?desires) of the world's poor peoples, Speakes indicated that the United States cannot consent to other countries telling it what to do.

HONDURAS' PAZ BARNICA CALLED 'LIAR, CYNICAL'

PA202015 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Former Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has just realized that the contras are operating from Honduras against Nicaragua. Paz Barnica's remarks, which show him as a man without morals and a coward, appeared in the Honduran newspaper EL HERALDO.

Paz Barnica openly admits, but not until now, that the Somozists have committed horrible crimes in eastern and southern Honduras. Mr Paz Barnica never dared make such a statement when he was the Honduran foreign secretary, and thus now he has shown himself to the Honduran people as a liar and a cynical politician who played into the hands of the aggressors of the Central American people who are none other than the imperialists of the Reagan government. This is the democracy that the Honduran Government's media keeps proclaiming.

MINISTRY CONDEMNS U.S. 'PROVOCATION' IN LIBYA

FL251154 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Three U.S. fighter planes were shot down and two Libyan ships sunk in incidents in the Gulf of Sidra, which is claimed by the North African country as part of its territorial waters. This information was confirmed by the Libyan news agency, while diplomatic sources in Tripoli say that U.S. Sixth Fleet units holding military maneuvers in the Mediterranean bombed Libyan rocket installations near the gulf coast.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has criticized the United States for once again conducting aggressive acts against the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with provocative air-naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra and sinking Libyan naval units 15,000 km away from U.S. territory. A ministry note reiterates the Cuban Government's and peoples' support for Libya and calls on the international community to express their most definite repudiation of such an contemptible provocation by U.S. imperialism.

U.S. 'PRESSURED' NATO ALLIES IN BAVARIA ON SDI

FL220134 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] During the meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, which has ended in Bavaria, the United States futilely pressured its NATO allies to support the U.S. plan to militarize space. Press reports affirm that the steps that Washington took were fruitless; only Great Britain still unconditionally supports the so-called U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI], also known as "star wars."

Representatives of only 11 of the 16 countries that belong to NATO participated in the meeting.

CASTRO SPEAKS TO NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM MEETING

FL221234 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, spoke last night at the closing session of the annual meeting to review the national health system in Havana. The highest leader of the revolution referred to the family doctor plan and was especially interested in the program's development in mountain areas in the eastern provinces, the population's response, and the program's results.

Castro also spoke about remodeling several Havana city hospitals, which will allow a substantial increase in the number of beds for better service to the population. During the meeting, it was reported that Cuba has 1 doctor for every 443 residents and 1 dentist for every 264 residents.

CARICOM DEFENDS GUYANA AGAINST FRENCH, BRITISH

FL241914 Bridgetown CANA in English 1903 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 24, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John says member nations of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) will not allow the economy of sister state Guyana to suffer as a result of pressures mounted by extraneous powers. The viewpoint of the Caribbean is that you cannot spite Guyana if you genuinely wish to assist Caribbean nations to develop their economies, St John, the incumbent Caricom chairman, was quoted as saying in an interview in the laest issue of the CARIBBEAN TIMES newspaper. He said Caricom governments objected to moves by France and Britain to block Guyana from benefitting from further aid through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) because of the inability of the Georgetown Government to make repayments on loans due to the Barbados-based lending agency.

France and Britain are contributors to the CDB. Guyana has been barred from receiving further loans from the CDB for about two years, and the government was unsuccessful in seeking a waiver last year.

We object to the French and British Governments' interference and we, as regional leaders and members of Caricom, must sue our lobbying power with the Americans and the Canadians and let them be aware of the unity that we share as Caribbean people, St John said. If they wish to help the Caribbean, they must help Guyana.

St John's inteview was the highlight of a 24-page supplement on Barbados by CARIBBEAN TIMES, a radical weekly catering to the West Indian community here.

St John said Caricom go meet Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte on the St Vincent-administered resort island of Mustique two months ago, said he felt the Guyanese leader was making a conscious effort to revive the country's crisis-hit, state-dominated economy. [sentence as received] The informal meeting took place as Guyana faced mounting criticism within the region of alleged human rights abuses, linked to opposition claims that last December's elections were rigged. St John said while there had been some improvement in Guyana as a result of moves by the government to free up the economy to allow more private sector involvement, Guyana neeeded to build up its image abroad if it is to generate interest for investors. ... There is hope that in the not too distant future, Guyana's economy will improve and that country would be a great contributor to the prosperity of the Caribbean people in general, he said.

With regard to Guyana's controversial electoral system, St John said the abolition of overseas voting and other reforms gave some ground for hope. We can only hope a solution will be found whereby confidence in the election machinery will be shared by both the government and the people in opposition, he said.

BAHAMAS

TAX STRUCTURE WILL NOT CHANGE FOR CBI

FL241454 Bridgetown CANA in English 1642 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Nassau, Bahamas, March 23, CANA -- The Bahamas does not intend to change its tax structure or alter its banking privacy laws to satisfy the United States statutory requirements under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, according to Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Addressing the seventh annual Bahamas International Financial Conference here, the prime minister said, however, the government would continue to explore ways to discourage and prevent criminal elements from successfully making use of the state's financial institutions. He asserted that the object and scope of the exchange of information was an incompatible point from which negotiations between the United States and the Bahamas might be started.

Pindling, who is also minister of finance, said the stipulation for over-riding bank privacy laws and subjecting third country nationals to the requirements of the agreement were most objectionable as compliance in this area would remove utterly the rationale and appeal of the Bahamas as a financial centre to non-United States residents and nationals. We continue to rely on the banking community here to make sure that we are aware of the adequacy and competitiveness of our arrangements, the Bahamian leader remarked. The systems must at all times be responsive to the stimuli for change. In addition to the newer developments, some of the old issues are still with us, e.g., our efforts continue unabated to preserve the requisite privacy of banking business by striking the appropriate balance between banking confidentiality and legitimate efforts to prevent its use for criminal purpose, Pindling said.

The prime minister: ... The Bahamas was always agreeable to co-operate with other governments to consider ways of curbing criminal activities through the use of the Bahama's financial system. In this connection therefore, I am able to report that representatives of the Bahamas Government and the Government of the United States have completed negotiations and have agreed in principal on the provision for a mutual legal assistance treaty in criminal matters which we expect both governments to agree to and conclude this year.

DOMINICA

DOMINICA, FRANCE AGREE ON MARTINIQUE BOUNDARY

FL241932 Bridgetown CANA in English 1924 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 24, CANA -- Dominica and France have agreed on the definition of the maritime boundaries separating Dominica from the French Caribbean island of Martinique after four years of negotiations. The agreement followed talks in Guadeloupe last week between a Dominican delegation led by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and French officials led by Juridical Adviser in the Foreign Ministry Gilbert Guillaume.

A communique issued after the meeting said that the final documents would be signed shortly when it is expected that a fisheries agreement between Dominica and the European community would be concluded. The fisheries agreement, which was also looked at during last week's meeting, is to regulate fishing between Dominica and EC vessels in the waters of Dominica and the French Caribbean islands of Martinique to the south and Guadeloupe to the north.

HAITI

DEMONSTRATORS CALL FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT

FL241946 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, March 24, CANA-Reuter -- Thousands of chanting Haitians marched peacefully through the capital streets to the national palace today demanding establishment of a civilian government.

Go away CNG [National Government Council], get out Namphy, the marchers shouted in Creole, referring to the ruling Conseil National de Gouvernment and its president Lieutenant General Henri Namphy. Calls for a general strike in the nation today, however, did not materialize following an outbreak of street violence and police retaliation last week, though managers of some smaller plants in the city reported some worker absenteeism.

The CNG, which Namphy realigned last Friday in the face of public protests, has been running the beleagured Caribbean nation since February 7 when President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to France.

Today's march -- which attracted up to 15,000 people over three hours -- was organized by a newly-formed group called the Committee to Ignite Democracy (KID), led by nine journalists, students, and young churchmen.

Most schools opened on schedule this morning despite broadcast appeals for a boycott. Many suspended clases after two hours, however, and the teenage students in multi-coloured uniforms joined in the march.

Rumours at the weekend had predicted chaos and disorder in the streets and widespread reports that Namphy would resign. The absence of a general strike appeared to strengthen the new government's hand and one source close to the council said: We're taking this as a good sign. Maybe the people now realize that everything can't be accomplished in six weeks.

A key factor in the failure of the strike call appeared to be a decision last night by transport drivers to keep working and help organize the nation without trouble. That theme was reflected in banners of the marchers, which proclaimed: We didn't come for trouble, we have just come for a demonstration to tell people what we want. There was some apprehension as the march began from inside the Roman Catholic cathedral about a mile from the palace. Vendors sold small limes and lemons to marchers to ward off the sting of expected tear gas attacks. But the mood of the parade was almost festive despite the often harsh and obscene anti-government rhetoric.

Dozens of grim-faced military men stood on the veranda of the mustard-coloured army headquarters as the marchers wound by and headed across a plaza to the palace gates. About two weeks after Duvalier's ouster, troops fired tear gas canisters at demonstrators in front of their headquarters. At times today youths broke from the ranks of the march and shook hands with young soldiers soliciting grins. About 30 heavily-armed troops huddled in the shade of a bouganvilla tree at the north end of the palace. Another 200 members of the presidential guard were deployed in a nearby garden but did not interfere with the march.

The newly-formed group KID was organized over the weekend and one of its principal leaders is Evans Paul, a former Creole radio newsman who went by the name Compere Plume. He went into exile during the Duvalier regime. A KID leaflet distributed today called on Haitians to organize themselves along democratic lines in neighbourhoods, schools, and work in all sectors.

Demands for civilian control of Haiti emerged almost from the moment of Duvalier's ouster after a long and bloody revolt which began in the provincial city of Gonaives last November. Namphy promised open elections shortly after the six-member council was installed. The government sources said the process would take up to 18 months -- and perhaps even longer. That timetable was generally supported by U.S. and other Western diplomats who pointed out that Haiti's most pressing problems were economic and after 28 years of tyrannical Duvalier family rule the nation had no political tradition.

The latest demands for civilian control came last Thursday when Gerald Gourgue, a long time human rights activist, angrily quit the council and charged the leadership with making too slow progress. A day later Namphy stripped three former Duvalier officials from the council. Though he has not declared his candidacy, Gourgue is expected to seek the presidency. In an interview with several western journalists yesterday, he described the Haitian people as angry, embittered, and strongly desirous of action.

CWC URGES RETURN OF EXILES BE EXPEDITED

FL242132 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 24, CANA -- The Curacao-based Caribbean Workers Council (CWC), grouping 23 trade unions throughout the region, today urged Haiti's transitional government to free up the process to permit the speedy return of exiles. CWC General Secretary Paul Tennassee accused the authorities in Port-au-Prince of attempting to control who wanted to come home following the downfall of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The junta which is there is giving passports to Haitian exiles, but with the passports you can't enter Haiti, you have to wait and get a visa, he told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA). One Caracas-based exile, George Fortune, who heads the Haitian Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions, which is affiliated to the CWC, had been attempting to get a visa for three weeks, Tennassee said.

The CWC official also urged the government to respect human rights and initiate steps for the election of a democratic government. Describing Haiti as a decapitated society, he said the presence of the overseas-based exiles was essential to the establishment of democracy in Haiti after almost three decades of authoritarian rule by the Duvalier dynasty. He said the CWC, along with a Puerto Rico affiliate, would hold a conference on Haiti in San Juan in June that would bring together regional labour leaders for discussions on the future of the Caribbean nation.

FURTHER CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED 24 MARCH

PA250022 Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Mar (AFP) -- The Haitian National Government Council (CNG) presided over by General Henri Namphy today readjusted the cabinet, appointing five new ministers, including Jean-Baptiste Hilaire as foreign minister replacing Jacques Francois, who as of Friday was the only civilian in the CNG. A former lieutenant general and chief of the general staff of the Army during the era of Jean-Claude Duvalier, Hilaire is a moderate individual who had struggled against corruption in the military corps, banning high-ranking officers from working in business.

Another new minister, who will be the minister of information and public relations to replace Colonel Max Valles, who resigned from the CNG on Friday, is Colonel Herard Abraham, a former commandant of the Military Academy and known to be one of the more moderate officers of the Haitian Army. Col Abraham was secretary of state for interior and for national defense in the previous cabinet.

As of now, Mario Celestin will be the minister of industry and commerce, a post held up to now by Leonce Thelusma, who had been challenged by the staff of the ministry where he was appointed under the protection of the Army.

Gerard Gourgue, who resigned last Thursday from his dual post of member of the CNG and minister of justice, is now replaced by Francois Latortue.

Gerard Noel will replace Tony Auguste in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Two new officers now join the Cabinet. They are Colonel Phedre Desir, as secretary of state for defense and interior, and Colonel Fritz Antoine, as secretary of state for justice.

Journalist Aubelin Jolicoeur is leaving his post of director general of tourism to become secretary of state for information and public relations.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

LEFTIST LEADER APPOINTED TO SENATE

FL241536 Bridgetown CANA in English 1513 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 24, CANA -- The national executive of the opposition National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has ratified the nomination of radical trade unionist George Weekes to fill an opposition senate seat left vacant by the death of Senator Nuevo Diaz, NAR leader A.N.R. Robinson said. It will be the second time that Weekes, veteran leftist leader of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU), will sit in the upper house of the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament.

NAR sources said there had been some contention within the newly-merged four-party organisation over the choice of Weekes. Weekes' nomination came before the national executive at a meeting last Saturday.